

56th. WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS....12 MAY.

Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life are the concern of each and everyone of us! We are all asked to PRAY and to have a positive spirit capable of "building"!

"In encountering the Lord, some may feel the attraction of a call to the consecrated life or to the ordained priesthood. It is a discovery that can excite and at the same time frighten us, since we feel called to become "fishers of men" in the barque of the Church by giving totally of ourselves in commitment to faithful service of the Gospel and our brothers and sisters. Such a decision carries the risk of leaving everything behind to follow the Lord, to devote ourselves completely to him, and to share in his work. And yet, there can be no greater joy than to risk one's life for the Lord! I would like to say this especially to you, the young. Do not be deaf to the Lord's call. If he calls you to follow this path, do not pull your oars into the boat, but trust him. Do not yield to fear, which paralyzes us before the great heights to which the Lord points us. Always remember that to those who leave their nets and boat behind, and follow him, the Lord promises the joy of a new life that can fill our hearts and enliven our journey". Pope Francis



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"Mother's Day" is celebrated in many countries throughout the world during the month of May. The advertising industry sees it is a window of opportunity to promote possible gifts for the occasion...expensive perfumes compete with each other for our attention! But, are not these the best perfumes to offer, the love of children and parent, daily respect and the joy of being together? And of course, imagine the joy of little ones who love to make their own gift as a surprise for Mother's Day! Peter Vigne sees himself as one of the "little ones" offering his present to his Mother: Mary the Incomparable One.

INFORMATION: YES to the CALL: Brazil, May 19, Sr. Naiara Santos Cardoso will make her Final Vows in the Congregation of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, in Amargosa, Bahia. We join with her, her community and family as we sing in gratitude MAGNIFICAT for that gift. We also give thanks for the 73 years the Sisters have been present in Amargosa.

>>>From 15 July to 5 August the **61st General Chapter of the Congregation** will take place at the Mother House, in Valence, France. The theme chosen for the assembly is "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2, 5)



PENTECOST. June 9 is the great feast of the HOLY SPIRIT.

Let us prepare with fervour for the feast: *"Come Holy Spirit...renew the face of the earth...send the light of your Holy Spirit into our hearts...fill our hearts with the love of the Father"* Our world is in desperate need of his Light, and all Christians need his power to be his witnesses.

CORPUS CHRISTI: 23 June the feast of the "Blessed Sacrament". The risen Christ is with us always in his Eucharistic Presence. This is a major feast for the Church....and for us also the *Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament!*



"TO THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, QUEEN OF HEAVEN BEYOND COMPARE.

*Saint Anselm, that great Saint and doctor of the Church firmly believes that no Angel in Heaven is worthy of greeting you, since all are but servants of your Son, and you are His Mother. **How can I be so bold as to offer you this Book**, which contains the pains and sufferings of the death of your Son? It is like another of Joseph's tunics dyed not in the blood of a natural lamb but in the Blood of the Lamb of God.*

*Having pierced your soul with sorrow here on earth, the mere memory of it alone ignites your heart with love, where you now dwell in your heavenly home. What really motivates me to present this Book to you is **knowing that the smallest gifts of a little child always please their Mother**, especially when they are offered with childlike love and devotion. **I hope that in offering it to you with those same dispositions you will be pleased to accept it, however unworthy I may be"***

P.B.L. Dedication Volume 11.



CLEBRATE THE FEASTS OF OUR LADY:

8 May: Our Lady of the Bl. SACRAMENT.

13 May: Our Lady of FATIMA

31 May: the VISITATION

RELIGIEUSES DU SAINT SACREMENT

MAISON MÈRE : 113, AVENUE VICTOR HUGO 26000 VALENCE - FRANCE

The Presence of MARY in the life of Bl. PETER VIGNE

Before the Beatification of Peter Vigne, the theological consultants for the Congregation for the Causes of Saints studied the Positio, which is a review of the life and virtues of Father Vigne. One of the theologians in his evaluation remarked, that in the document “*very little was said about Our Lady and about his (Peter Vigne) devotion to the Mother of God*” Fortunately that did not prevent him for giving it a positive vote!

As this is the month of May, it’s an opportunity to review, however briefly, the extent to which Mary is present in his life and writings. Lovingly and tenderly, he dedicates to her the second volume of the Plus Beau Livre. Humble as always, he does so “*like a little child*” who knows that “*the smallest of gifts always give pleasure to their Mother*”! To her too, he offers his Book of Prayers, “*Heures Nouvelles*” giving her the most beautiful names that spring from the depths of his heart because **Mary is the “Blessed One of God”** and “*the source of all Blessing*”. And it is also through her intercession that he offers his life: “*O Jesus, through the intercession of Mary most holy, your Incomparable Mother who wished to be your servant, I offer my entire life, my soul and body to you. Lord, I am your servant, your servant and the son of your Servant*” (PBL ep.)

It is also to Mary that he entrusts each one of his missionary journeys. He prays that she will accompany the pilgrims who come to Boucieu to take part in the “*Grand Voyage*” the extended Way of the Cross, because he knows she will help them live their Christian commitment day in day out. They must therefore “*ask God through the intercession of His Most Blessed Mother for the grace of renewed devotion to a loving Saviour who suffers for us; and a genuine appreciation of the immeasurable love he has for us*. At a crossroads on that “*Grand Voyage*” (Way of the Cross) he had a little Chapel built and dedicated it to Our Lady of Sorrows. At each of the 30 stations he invited pilgrims to pray 5 Hail Marys....an entire Rosary asking Mary to accompany us! Shortly after arriving in Boucieu he encouraged the inhabitants and those who lived locally to honour Mary and to establish a Rosary Confraternity. Such was the response and enthusiasm that the prior of the Dominicans in Valence accepted 240 new members on 14 November 1712! To ensure that his missions bore fruit and weren’t forgotten Fr. Vigne erected Calvaries and established Confraternities thus supporting the faith in many isolated villages and hamlets. In Mary, he contemplates “*all the tenderness she felt for her Son*” and how she identifies with her Son’s calling, never putting any obstacle in his way! (PBL 2 – 111) He admires her generosity: “*Lord, what a beautiful example you place before us in the person of your Holy Mother!*” The song of the Magnificat is for him a joy he shares with his dear Christians: “*Unite yourself to the praises of the Most Blessed Virgin, who recognised that whatever graces and virtues she possessed, all that was great in her, was the work of her Creator. It is to Him that she gives all glory and praise*” HN 2 – 130

As the founder of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in 1715 he ensured that all major events were marked by a Marian Feast. **On the Feast of the Visitation** he blessed the house and chapel dedicated to **Our Lady of Calvary**. The Sisters celebrated their first vows on the “**feast of the Nativity of Our Lady, 8 September 1722**” He advised them to pray fervently to Mary avoiding routine: “*The more you focus your attention, praying ardently for some particular favour through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, then God seeing such great love will surely hear your prayer*” (R.de V. 237) “*Never forget to carry your rosary beads with you and have in your heart a great devotion to such a wonderful Mother, praying fervently to her at all times*”

What is our response?

Where do we stand?

Notre Dame de Paris: a fire that woke us!

The impact of the burning of the Paris Cathedral was enormous. As we watched live coverage of it on television we could scarcely believe what was unfolding before our very eyes. On May 30th 1980 in Paris, John Paul posed the question, “**Do you love me?**”

That question was asked ..here in this place.. Man... must never forget that he too is a temple where the Holy Spirit dwells. **For that very reason men built this temple and for eight centuries it has stood as a witness to their faith and love of Our Lady.**

Here, ..this question should be asked: “Do you love Me?” But it must be asked everywhere and at all times. It was God who put this question to man. Now man must continually ask himself that same question....**Christ is the cornerstone of this construction.** He is the cornerstone of this form that the world, our human world can take, thanks to love.

Your ancestors dedicated this splendid construction, treasure of Gothic art, to the Mother of God. **They consecrated it to Mary, who, among all human beings gave the most perfect answer to the question: Do you love? Do you love Me?....**Her entire life was indeed a perfect answer to that question”

Praying with Claudel:

“*Because it is Midday, because we are here, on this day, today. Because you’re here forever, simply because you’re Mary, simply because you exist, Mother of Jesus Christ, we thank you!*”



An EASTER of SORROW in SRI LANKA

A few days after the fire in Notre Dame Cathedral another shocking story hit the headlines....but this time it stayed only briefly on the front page! And yet!!

Holy Week is always a time of high risk for Christians and this year Sri Lanka paid a heavy price, despite the wish of the majority of Muslims and Christians to maintain peaceful relations. Christians represent a little over 7% of the population. Just as the faithful were gathering on Easter Sunday morning to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord, a terrorist struck, leaving 253 people dead and another 500 injured. Those behind the attacks sought to kill or maim as many people as possible. “*It is a brutal attack against innocent people...pure violence. It’s a tragedy. The three churches that were targeted were celebrating the first Masses of Easter and consequently were packed to capacity*”.



Despite attacks and persecutions, their faith in the Resurrection of Jesus, the unshakeable faith of martyrs, continues to support their desire for peace. **Our Christian brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka stand as a beacon of Hope in the midst of so much violence.**

>>**BUT** who is still talking about them? They now have to rebuild their lives, their families, their communities ... and their three churches! They are the living stones of the Church. **THANK YOU, brothers and sisters in FAITH.**

Rebuild!

**The Christian Communities.
the churches....
the Cathedral....
THE FAITH**